

Sycamore Tree

Year A, Third Sunday in Lent

Date: March 15, 2020

John: 4 5-42

The Most Important Verse: Jesus said, “You drink from this well, and you’ll be thirsty again. But if you drink the ‘water’ I give you, you will never be thirsty again.”

Conversation and Story about the Gospel or Reading:

- Explain how people collected water in Jesus' time:
 - There wasn't any running water in the house. People went to a well, usually outside the city, and collected water. You needed a bucket to collect the water and something like a big jug to transfer the water to.
 - Wells are very deep, and a long rope is used to lower a bucket into the well. When the bucket is filled with water, the bucket is pulled up by the rope.
 - The water from the bucket is poured into a big jug, and someone carries it home.
- In Jesus' time there were not cars. People walked from town to town, and place to place. One day Jesus and his disciples were walking to Galilee and had to go through the land of Samaria. Remind the children that the Samaritans and Jews did not get along. Sometimes they didn't even speak to each other.
- As Jesus walked along the path, he sent his disciples to buy food. They had walked a long distance in the hot sun, and Jesus was tired and thirsty.
- He came to Jacob's well and sat down to rest. (If someone asks about Jacob simply tell him/her that he was the father of the twelve men who became the tribes of the land of Israel.)
- As Jesus was resting, a Samaritan woman came to the well.
- He asked the woman for a drink of water from the well.
- The woman was shocked, because Jews don't talk to Samaritans or drink from the same bucket. Yet, Jesus asked her for a drink.
- The woman said, “You're asking ME for water?”
- The Samaritan woman heard what Jesus said, but didn't understand.
- Jesus answered her and said, “If only you knew who I was, and what I could give you, you would have asked ME for LIVING water.”
- She told Jesus that the well was very special because it came from Jacob, who was an ancestor. The well was deep, and Jesus didn't have a bucket. The woman thought Jesus might be saying Jacob's well did not have good water.
- Jesus told the woman that if she drank from the Jacob's well, or any well, she would become thirsty again.
- Ask the children if they have ever been thirsty. Explore that their thirst goes away when they drink water, but in a while it comes back again.
- Jesus said he could give LIVING water that she would never be thirsty again.
- Ask the children if they can imagine LIVING water.
 - Is it water like we drink?
 - Is it special?

- Could Jesus be talking about a different kind of thirst and a different kind of water?
- The woman did not understand. Explore with the children about a thirst that comes from the soul. A thirst for knowing God.
- Jesus had to tell the woman something about her life, which a stranger would never know.
- When he told her about her life, she understood that he was someone very special, and who was sent by God.
- After the woman understood that Jesus was the Messiah, she brought all her friends to meet Jesus.
- The Samaritan woman shared Jesus with all her friends.

Light a candle and read the Gospel:

A Reading from the Book of John

Jesus came to Jacob's well and sat down because he was tired. His disciples had gone into town to buy food. It was the middle of the day. A Samaritan woman came to get water from the well and Jesus asked her if she'd give him a drink of water.

The woman was shocked because Jews don't usually talk to Samaritans, and they didn't share their water. "You're asking ME for water?" the woman said. Jesus answered her, "If only you knew who I was, and what I could give you, you would have asked ME for LIVING water."

The woman said, "Living water? This is one deep well and you don't even have a bucket. How do you expect to give me living water? You think you're more special than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well?"

Jesus said, "You drink from this well, and you'll be thirsty again. But if you drink the 'water' I give you, you will never be thirsty again. The water I have for you will gush from the spring of eternal life."

The woman said, "Oh please sir, I'd like some of that water, so I'll never be thirsty and I won't have to work so hard to get water here at this well."

Jesus said, "Why don't you go get your husband and tell him?"

"But I don't have a husband," she said.

Jesus said, "You're right about that. You've gone through five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't your husband."

"Whoa! How did you know that? You must be a prophet. My people worship here, but you Jews say the only place to worship is in Jerusalem. What do you say about that?"

Jesus said, "You know, someday it won't matter where we worship, because the only place to worship God is in your heart. God doesn't 'belong' anywhere; God is spirit and we must worship him in spirit."

The woman agreed with him. "And I agree that the Messiah is coming soon, and when he gets here, he will tell us all what's going on."

Jesus said, "You're talking to him, the Messiah."

Just then his disciples came back with food. They were shocked that he was talking on and on with this woman. They saw her leave her water jar at the well. When

she was in the city she told everyone she knew about this remarkable man who seemed to know everything about her. "I think he's the Messiah," she said.

Meanwhile the disciples tried to get Jesus to eat something. "Oh I have food alright," Jesus said. "Food you don't know about."

"What?" the disciples said. "We walked all the way into town to get some food for you, and now you say already had some?"

But Jesus was talking about food in a different way, just as he talked with the woman about living water.

"The food that keeps me going is doing what God wants me to do," said Jesus.

The Samarian woman brought her friends from town to meet Jesus. They all believed in Jesus because of what she told them. They invited Jesus to stay with the, so he did. Even more people believed in him and knew that he was the Savior of the world because of all he told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Briggs, Lyn Zill. God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children. Church Publishing Inc.

Reflection on the Gospel:

- What did you hear in this reading?
- What does Jesus mean when he talks about Living Water?
- Ask, "What does this story tell us about:"
 - Loving our enemies?
 - Who God loves?
 - "LIVING water?"
- What would it be like to drink Living Water?

Prayer:

Invite your child to pray about something he/she is thankful for and/or something that he/she wants God's help with.

After everyone prays, say the Lord's Prayer.

Music:

End with the song "Deep and Wide"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzAW_sF1Jbs